

NOV 17 2004
O T P E
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Iain Kalfas, Carl Lauryssen, Steven Luwig, Michael O'Brien, Thomas Doherty, Mark T. Hall, Bryan S. Jones, David Konieczynski and Raymond F. Murphy

Application No.: 10/813,904 Group Art Unit: 3743

Filed: March 31, 2004 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: 5037

Title: Head-to-Head Connector Spinal Fixation System

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on:

Nov. 15, 2004 Betsy S. Kirschner

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Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

under 37 CFR 1.129(a), or
(First/Second submission after Final Rejection)

under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
(Within any one of the following time periods: three months of filing national application (other than a CPA) or date of entry of the national stage in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits in a non-provisional application, including a CPA, or a Request for Continued Examination).

under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either:
 a Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), as checked below, or
 a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(After the 37 CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with:
 a Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), as checked below, and
 a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee)

under 37 CFR 1.97(i):
Applicant requests that the IDS and cited reference(s) be placed in the application filewrapper.
(Filed after payment of issue fee)

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

- Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or
- No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (Patent Term Adjustment)

Applies to original applications (other than design) filed on or after May 29, 2000

- Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed herewith is form PTO-1449:

Copy of the cited reference [AR] is enclosed.

Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of issued U.S. patents and published U.S. applications are not required and are not being provided.

Copies of the cited references are enclosed except those entered in prior application, U.S. Application No. [], to which priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is claimed. [The earlier application contains copies of the cited references.]

The listed references were cited in the enclosed International Search Report in a counterpart foreign application.

The "concise explanation" requirement (non-English references) for reference(s) [] under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) is satisfied by:

the explanation provided on the attached sheet.

the explanation provided in the Specification.

submission of the enclosed International Search Report.

submission of the enclosed English-language version of a foreign Search Report and/or foreign Office Action.

the enclosed English language abstract.

[] Applicant requests that the following non-published pending applications be considered:

Examiner's
Initials

____ U.S. Patent Application No. [], by [inventor(s)], filed [], Docket No.: []

____ U.S. Patent Application No. [], by [inventor(s)], filed [], Docket No.: []

____ U.S. Patent Application No. [], by [inventor(s)], filed [], Docket No.: []

____ Examiner

____ Date

[] A copy of each above-cited application, including the current claims, is enclosed.

[] A copy of each above-cited application, including the current claims, is enclosed, except those entered in prior application, U.S. Application No. [], to which priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is claimed.

The Examiner is requested to return a copy of the above list of pending applications indicating which references were considered with the next office communication.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

Method of payment:

[] A check for the fee noted above is enclosed, or the fee has been included in the check with the accompanying Reply. A copy of this Statement is enclosed.

[] Please charge Deposit Account 08-0380 in the amount of \$[]. A copy of this Statement is enclosed.

[X] Please charge any deficiency in fees and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-0380.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By


N. Scott Pierce
Registration No.: 34,900
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated:

11/15/04

PTO-1449 REPRODUCED O P F E INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION 11/17/2004 November 3, 2004 (Use several sheets if necessary)			ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 3518.1023-000	APPLICATION NO. 10/813,904
			FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Iain H. Kalfas	FILING DATE March 31, 2004
			EXAMINER Not Yet Assigned	CONFIRMATION NO. 5037
				GROUP 3743

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF. NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	ISSUE DATE / PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT OF CITED DOCUMENT
	AA	US 2003/0114853 A1	06-19-2003	Ian Burgess <i>et al.</i>
	AB	5,261,907A	11-16-1993	Jean L. Vignaud <i>et al.</i>
	AC	5,437,671A	08-01-1995	Antony J. Lozier <i>et al.</i>
	AD	5,498,263A	03-12-1996	Alexandre M. DiNello <i>et al.</i>
	AE	5,667,506A	09-16-1997	Chester E. Sutterlin
	AF	5,688,272A	11-18-1997	Leslie A. Montague <i>et al.</i>
	AG	5,980,521A	11-09-1999	Leslie A. Montague <i>et al.</i>
	AH	5,989,251A	11-23-1999	David Nichols
	AI	6,302,882 B1	10-16-2001	Chih-I Lin <i>et al.</i>
	AJ	6,413,257 B1	06-02-2002	Chih-I Lin <i>et al.</i>

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER Country Code-Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT OF CITED DOCUMENT	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AL				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AR	“Ovation™ Polyaxial System” by Osteotech Inc. (author unknown), description downloaded from http://www.osteotech.com/prodpoly2.htm ; pp. 1-6; (October 28, 2003).
AS	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED